

testimony. The evidence he had brought forward showed conclusively that the use of nitrous oxide gas was attended with danger, and required skill in administration. Those who represented that it was a hardship to deprive unqualified dentists of the right to administer nitrous oxide gas proved too much, because if its administration was so safe and simple it would be quite easy for them to pass the examination prescribed by the board. It was nothing to say that fatal consequences were rare. Every one would see that the operations were carried on the narrow border line between anaesthesia and asphyxia. Out of the one the patient might come safely; from the other there was no escape. The character of the evidence showed that it was probable the source of injurious consequences was brought about by the common and unskilled administration of nitrous oxide gas, and in the case of the unskilled and sordid who carried on their work simply for what they could make by it, the administration of it should certainly not be in their hands. It was within his knowledge that whereas formerly it took a very strong man to have two teeth pulled at once, now by the administration of nitrous oxide gas it was a common thing to have all the teeth in the head extracted, because it was much easier to make a complete set of false teeth than to make the work fit around the teeth of great value which ought to be retained in the head. So a patient was placed in a state of anaesthesia under nitrous oxide gas and his teeth were ripped out one after the other until his jaws had been completely stripped. Two or three instances of that had come under his own observation. That itself was a most serious thing. The result of having all the teeth extracted was that the sockets of the teeth, which did not belong to the skeleton or the bone system of the body, became shrunken and absorbed. There was only a thin bone which formed the upper and the lower jaw, and as the jaw shrank the salivary organs were left exposed, and suffered damage. The result in many instances was lifelong dyspepsia and suffering. He was satisfied the Act was required, and was sure that the public had asked for it. A very large number of people had spoken to him about it. The words of one of the leading ecclesiastics of the state, who had an extensive acquaintance with the poor, were:—"I trust that in the interests of the poor, who are in so many instances being made to suffer unnecessarily, and who are made to pay a great deal more than they ought to, you will succeed in carrying your Dental Bill. If you do you will place on the statute book an Act that will be for the advantage of the profession itself and also for the whole people." He moved the second reading.

and exposed to city exhalations, would possibly be to both classes of patients about equally unsuitable. For the consumptive every medical man recommends fresh air, cheerfulness, and absence of depressing surroundings, and for these things one would hardly look to the sombre building on North-terrace and its secluded environment. It is in the country where the free atmosphere and the kindly sunshine which afford the best chance for a patient who has tubercular disease in his lungs are to be found, and if, as there is a strong probability, cancer be related in some mysterious way to the soil, a moist clay soil near river beds—if we may believe Dr. Alfred Haviland and other experts—favoring its growth, then the proposed locality is hardly a fitting place of residence for sufferers from this most pitiless of maladies. Besides, for the benefit of the healthy population it is desirable to remove the afflicted from the neighborhood of dwelling-houses and business places. Every person suffering from active phthisis is a constant manufactory of poison, which he spreads about him in all directions, and it is desirable that he should be placed where he will do as little mischief in this way as possible. It is high time that something were done to provide the accommodation of which the Government have admitted the necessity. But it is hardly too much to say that to carry out the proposal referred to would be to defy the teachings of medical science.

Reg 15th Aug. 1902.

CONSUMPTION AND CANCER.

To the Editor,
 Sir—My friend Professor Stirling has written a letter of a somewhat alarmist character, but I think it was written under the misapprehension that the Government proposed to convert the North terrace Lunatic Asylum into a home or hospital for consumptive and cancer cases. I do not profess to know the intentions of the Government, but from various communications they have forwarded to the Board of Management of the Adelaide Hospital I gather that the idea is to convert the buildings into an infirmary for indigent patients suffering from all kinds of diseases, who from various reasons are unsuitable for treatment at the hospital. This would include the sick at present located in the Destitute Asylum, and, among others, there would be incurable cases of consumption and cancer. These at present are located either in the wards of the Adelaide Hospital, where they certainly ought not to be, or dispersed among the poor in the city or suburbs, most probably in small, overcrowded houses, where there is no pretence of sanitary supervision. In the case of consumptives, here they form foci for the dissemination of the disease, and may continue to do so for weeks and months, and sometimes years. No man could argue that the asylum building or site is an ideal one for the location of the cases under discussion, but can any one say that the removal of these poor people from their present abodes to the building would be fraught with anything but advantage, either to themselves or the general community? Let it be distinctly understood that the intention is not to provide a hospital in which recovery may be expected or hoped for. That we already have at the Adelaide and Children's Hospitals and Kalyra. Here is an asylum in which it is hoped that the sufferers may end their days with as much comfort as is possible in the circumstances, and at the same time lessen to a very great extent the danger of spreading the disease. It may be said—"Why not build an asylum away from town?" In the present financial position of the state is there the slightest chance of money being spent in this direction? There is urgent need that a home should be provided for this class of cases, and for want of a better scheme I for one welcome the proposal of the Government to utilize the asylum building in the manner proposed.
 I am, Sir, &c.,
 W. T. HAYWARD.

Advertiser 14th Aug.

CANCER AND CONSUMPTION HOME.

In the multitude of counsellors there is wisdom, and it is not impossible that as the result of researches now progressing in every land, a cure may yet be found even for cancer, and the scarcely less dreaded tubercle bacillus become a mere curiosity of the laboratory. Pending that happy state of things a good deal may be done to alleviate the sufferings of the afflicted, and in the case of consumption, at least, minimize the risks of infection. In South Australia this problem, as the yearly reports of the Destitute Asylum show, has become one of no small urgency. Private effort has done something, but it cannot cover the whole ground, and the Destitute Asylum, which in the alternative is the only refuge left for extreme cases, was never designed, architecturally or otherwise, as a home for incurables. What is imperatively called for is special provision for the treatment of necessitous persons seized by either of the dreaded maladies referred to. Urgent cases of the kind have to find shelter somewhere, if not in charitable or public institutions then in private dwellings, where skilful treatment and nursing are unattainable, and where even the necessary hygienic conditions are not always present. The conversion of the lunatic asylum on North-terrace into a hospital for the treatment of such cases which the Government appear to have in contemplation might be an excellent idea, if economy alone had to be considered. But it is emphatically condemned on the grounds on which alone the matter ought to be decided, and which have been stated with much cogency in our columns by Dr. Stirling and Mr. J. B. Cleland. One of the purposes to be served by isolating such patients from the rest of the community is, of course, to deliver them from physical surroundings unsuitable to their condition. Another is to free from incessant danger or discomfort the healthy among whom they would otherwise be moving. These requirements are certainly not met by the suggested site, even if the building were suitable, which it is far from being. Many will share Dr. Stirling's misgivings as to whether the consumptive and the cancerous should be associated in one building at all, but in any case the North-terrace site, low-lying, dusty, shut off from healthy breezes,

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES.
 Professor Ennis, Mus. Doc., gave the first of his three lectures on the history of music at the Elder Conservatorium on Thursday evening, before a large and interested audience. In opening the professor said that he would endeavour to give his hearers a bird's-eye view of music up to the fourteenth century. The first attempts at making music with which we were acquainted were the efforts of the Greeks, who based their system upon the interval of a fourth, the tetrachord. The various forms which the tetrachord assumed were explained in detail, and also the manner in which the Greek modes grew out of two tetrachords. According to a rule of that time every melody was comprised within the octave, with the exception that it might occasionally take one note below the lowest note of the mode. It was probably that harmony and part-singing were entirely unknown to the Greeks. The art of music passed out of Greece to Italy, where it received a fresh impulse in connection with the ritual of the church. The earliest hymns in existence, dated the fourth century, were based on the same modes as the Greeks used. The early Italian melodies, however, were characterized by greater simplicity than the Greeks had displayed. For about 250 years before the ninth century there was no record of any music having been written. At the end of the ninth century we found two works written upon music, in which a new method of composing is described, called organum or diaphony, which consisted at first in writing a melody a fourth or fifth below the subject, later the eighth was added to both these, making four parts. A short example of this species of composition was then played on the strings by the students of the Conservatorium. Free diaphony was explained, and the reasons for its general acceptance about the middle of the eleventh century. A new era in musical composition began about the year 1050, when contrary motion first began to be used. The first attempts to classify measure or time were described, and the professor stated that polyphony actually began to be practised in Paris, and the writing in three parts soon came into general use. Some specimens of the early Parisian art were then played, including the motet, conductus, and the rondo. These writers he referred to had no idea of harmony as we understood it whatever, and consequently wrote very harsh discords. These were gradually recognised, and major and minor thirds and sixths were afterwards admitted. Gradually the consecutive fifths and fourths were avoided. The art of composition then passed from Paris to Flanders, where a further advance was effected. Reference was made to Du Faye and his compositions, some of which were played, and showed a marked advance upon the crude pieces previously rendered. In England during the time of Du Faye part-singing was practised, and the major scale was known. The beginnings of harmony were touched upon, and that remarkable composition Sumus Iocumen In, a round of great antiquity thought to belong to the thirteenth century, the original MS. of which is preserved in the British Museum, was described and afterwards played by the Conservatorium students. Dr. Ennis will continue his remarks next Thursday evening.

Reg. 16th Aug. 1902.

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS.

To the Editor,
 Sir—Permit me to refer to the question of the marks assigned for various subjects at the lower Adelaide University examinations. It seems unfair to bring classical and mathematical branches so into prominence as to obscure the value of sciences, &c. The result of the present system is that only those can come within reach of the highest honours (referring to the special prizes awarded for first marks) who take up languages and mathematics; while others, finding science or history their forte, even should their abilities in their own peculiar lines far outshine more classical competitors, find themselves nowhere in the limited class lists. The system, too, shuts out our girls from winning laurels, which it will take such efforts to gain, there being few among them, even in these educational days, who can be persuaded to attempt the mysteries of Greek! The result of past examinations shows the effect of standing regulations in this respect. Distinguished candidates winning prizes at senior and junior examinations have been invariably classically and mathematically trained boys. The Melbourne system, while far from perfect—indeed, in most respects we prefer that in vogue in our own city—has the advantage that papers are judged according to per cent., and no subject has an advantage of marks over another. One must admire, too, the exhibition system of our sister capital—a coupling of subjects with a reward for the highest marks attained in each couplet—but will not press that point. What I would contend for is an equal percentage, and I believe the majority of teachers will side with me. Another point is the background position assigned to the sciences of botany and physiology. Few seem to have appreciated the value of these subjects from an educational standpoint; yet what would do more to make the youth of the future generation what we would see him—the study of nature as God made it, or, what man has made of man? I do not beg for these sciences a foremost position. Willingly I leave to others that place; but let them not be neglected. How many entered for these branches last year, among boys especially, at either junior, senior, or higher public examinations? If they are considered insignificant studies, it is because the standard so far has been low. Then raise it. Bring every subject to the same level, judge by the same standard, and give an equal chance to all!
 I am, Sir, &c.,
 H. M. B.